For there is none of you so mean and base,
That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.
I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips[9],
Straining upon the start[1]. The game's afoot;
Follow your spirit: and, upon this charge,
Cry—God for Harry! England! and Saint George!
Exeunt. Alarum, and Chambers go off.

SCENE II.

The Same.

Forces pass over; then enter NYM, BARDOLPH, PISTOL, *and Boy.*

BAUD. On, on, on, on, on! to the breach, to the breach!

NYM. Pray thee, corporal[2], stay: the knocks are too hot; and for mine own part, I have not a case of lives[3]: the humour of it is too hot, that is the very plain-song of it.

9 — like greyhounds in the SLIPS.] *Slips* are a contrivance of leather, to start two dogs at the same time. C.

1 STRAINING upon the start.] The old copy reads—Straying*
Corrected by Mr. Rowe. MALONE.

a — corporal.] We should read—lieutenant. It is Bardolph to whom he speaks. STEEVENS.

Though Bardolph is only a corporal in King Henry IV. as our author has in this play, from inadvertence or design, made him a lieutenant. I think, with Mr. Steevens, that we should read *lieutenant.* See a former note, p. 294-, n. 8. The truth is, I believe, that the variations in his title proceeded merely from Shakspeare's inattention. MALONE.

3 — a case of lives:] A set of lives, of which, when one is worn out, another may serve. JOHNSON.

Perhaps only *two*; as a *case* of Pistols: and, in Ben Jonson, a *case* of masques. WHALLEY.

I believe Mr. Whalley's explanation is the true one. A *case* of pistols, which was the current phrase for a *pair* or *brace* of pistols, in our author's time, is at this day the

term always used